

Annual Report for the year 1895
For the Urban Sanitary District of Donham
Estimated Popⁿ 2593.

Gentlemen

In my Report for the year 1895 may be observed a steadily diminishing Birth-rate, and a very high rate of Infant mortality. During the severe cold in the first quarter of the year a large proportion of infants succumbed to disease of the respiratory organs concurrent with Whooping cough.

Birth Rate During the year the number of Births registered was 60. males 27. females 33. giving a Birth rate of 23.1 per 1000 of the population. The average number of Births for the previous ten years was 68.

Death Rate The number of Deaths was 65. males 33 females 32. after deducting 14 which occurred in the Workhouse Infirmary, and not belonging to the Urban District the Death rate appears as 19.6 per 1000 of population.

Infant Mortality Seventeen infants died under 1 year. Excluding three Births which were registered as immature, the Death-rate under this head is 233.3 infants per 1000 Births.

Aged Mortality Deaths over 65 years of age 14.

Fymotic Six deaths are recorded as having been caused by Whooping Cough, and probably other children who died from Bronchitis succumbed really to this disease. There were no deaths from other Fymotic diseases. Scarlatina appeared in the District in the month of May but I cannot furnish any information concerning

its origin. Twenty three cases were notified during the year and happened at all parts of the Town, having been imported into the Infant schools. These were closed on 9th December for a period of three weeks, and the class-rooms cloak-rooms and offices were thoroughly disinfected. All other parts of the building were similarly treated during the Xmas vacation. Since that date the disease has abated and has occurred in four families only.

A case of Diphtheria in Railway Road was notified in August also a case in Berewell Road in October. Both cases were mild and the causation could not be traced.

A case of Enteric Fever occurred in June on premises where the drains were defective a second case was observed in August. Having been imported from Pyarmouth Whooping Cough and Influenza were generally prevailing during the first quarter of the year.

One case of Erysipelas was reported.

Amongst Zymotic diseases 'Whooping Cough' only occurs in the Death List. Other causes of death were Phthisis (6)

Other Lung diseases (12) Heart disease (2) Cancer (2)

Water Supply. In my Report for previous year it was stated that the District was inadequately supplied with wholesome water. During the month of June I inspected the whole District and in accordance with instructions from the Local Government Board presented to your Council a special and detailed Report. 38 wells were condemned as polluted, and through your Council 39 notices were served to separate house-owners. In 12 instances success has been attained (to present date). It is to be hoped that many other corrections may follow. An additional public well on Lynn Road together with a little exertion and expense on the part of property owners will probably meet the requirements of the inhabitants. The public well on the Green should be protected from existing sewage contamination as although the water is never resorted to for household

purposes, at least it causes offensive exhalations when bestowed on the streets.

Drainage In my Special Report on sources of drinking water. I noted a series of pump wells on the south side of Bridge Street the water from which wells was found to contain sewage impurity, and I formed the opinion that the pollution had its source from the neighbouring main sewer. I have ascertained that the sewer is of ancient construction and on examination it will probably be found leaky. If this be the case it is useless for neighbouring house-owners to clean out the existing wells with any hope of deriving pure water. Instructions should be given to your Surveyor to secure flushing of the main drains during dry weather. This process can be well carried on by means of the large water van about to be provided for the District.

Summary of Sanitary work done by your Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector.

230 wells have been examined and the water analytically tested.

14 defects in drains have been remedied.

7 houses including 2 newly built have been connected with public drain.

7 vaults have been filled up and trapped water-traps substituted 1 w.c. removed further from the public way.

45 printed notices have been served for offensive refuse bins, cess-pits, pig-sties and closets.

The Board Schools and offices adjoining have been fumigated and thoroughly disinfected.

8 Slaughter-sheds have been periodically inspected and were generally clean.

8 Bake-houses have been kept under observation.

4 Cow-sheds have been occasionally visited and found in a satisfactory state.

A large quantity of disinfectants has been applied to the gullies and sewers in the District.

No cases of overcrowding have been under notice.

There is not a Lodging-house in the District.

No summons has been issued for neglect of notices.

I am Gentlemen

Yours Obedtly

Thomas L. Wales -

Med.^c Officer of Health

28.th February 1896

To the Chairman Urban District Council.